

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15
OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 ARA-10
NRC-07 PA-02 PRS-01 DHA-02 IO-13 /149 W
-----061840Z 086726 /42

R 061706Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7216

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 06092

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, EGEN, ENGR, SHUM, CSCE, US, GW

SUBJECT: HELMUT KOHL'S INTERVIEW ON PENDING U.S.

VISIT, OTHER MATTERS

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED ON APRIL 6,
CDU CHAIRMAN HELMUT KOHL SAID HE WILL VISIT WASHINGTON
"IN EARLY SUMMER." HE SUPPORTED BONN'S POSITION ON
ECONOMIC EXPANSION AND THE REACTOR DEAL WITH BRAZIL. HE
ALSO SPOKE INTER ALIA ON THE FDP, CDU/CSU RELATIONS, THE
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ECONOMY, AND ENERGY POLICY. WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING
PRECIS AS BACKGROUND FOR HIS PENDING TRIP TO THE U.S.
END SUMMARY.

1. CDU CHAIRMAN HELMUT KOHL HAS GIVEN AN INTERVIEW WHICH
APPEARED IN THE APRIL 6 ISSUE OF RIGHT-CENTER "DIE WELT."
IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC -- AND OFTEN LEADING -- QUESTIONS,

KOHL SAID HE WILL VISIT WASHINGTON IN "EARLY SUMMER", AND HE COMMENTED ON FOUR USG-FRG PROBLEM AREAS. (INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION IN ALL CASES.)

A. ECONOMIC STIMULATION. KOHL SAID HE OPPOSES USG EFFORTS TO PERSUADE BONN TO ADOPT AN EXPANSIVE ECONOMIC COURSE. HE SAID THAT THE CDU/CSU WILL SUPPORT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT "SO LONG AS IT PURSUES A STABILITY-ORIENTED ECONOMIC POLICY."

B. REACTOR DEAL WITH BRAZIL. KOHL SAID:"OUR VIEW IS FIRM HERE. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS TREATED THIS QUESTION CORRECTLY. THE CONTRACTS WITH BRAZIL WERE CAREFULLY WORKED OUT AND LAWFULLY SIGNED. UNDER HITLER'S THIRD REICH, GERMANS MADE FOR THEMSELVES A REPUTATION AS BREAKERS OF TREATIES. OBSERVANCE OF TREATIES IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT HALLMARKS OF DEMOCRATIC GERMANY. KONRAD ADENAUER HAMMERED THAT INTO THE HEADS OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION. MOREOVER: WE ARE AN EXPORT-INTENSIVE COUNTRY."

C. STANDARDIZATION/TANKS. KOHL "REGRETTED DEEPLY THAT ALL EFFORTS MADE IN THE TANK QUESTION HAVE LED TO NOTHING."

D. HUMAN RIGHTS. ASKED ABOUT GERMANS WHO CRITICIZE THE USG "HARD LINE" ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND WHO WANT TO PUSSYFOOT AT THE BELGRADE FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE, KOHL NOTED A TENDENCY IN EUROPE TO SEEK ACCOMMODATION
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WITH THE EAST. HE ATTRIBUTED THIS PHENOMENON PARTLY TO THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION IN (UNNAMED) EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. HE ADDED THAT, FOR GERMANS, HUMAN RIGHTS IS BOTH A NATIONAL AND AN INTERNATIONAL ISSUE.

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2. KOHL ALSO ANSWERED QUESTIONS ON THE FDP, CDU/CSU
RELATIONS, THE ECONOMY, AND ENERGY POLICY.

A. FDP. KOHL SAID THAT A TRULY LIBERAL FDP WOULD
BE "THE NATURAL PARTNER" FOR THE UNION. HE CRITICIZED,
HOWEVER, FDP LEFTISM -- E.G., THE LEFTWARD DRIFT OF
THE JUDO'S AND THE ALLEGED HAVOC WHICH FDP POLITICIANS HAVE
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WROUGHT IN THE EDUCATION FIELD.

B. CDU/CSU RELATIONS. CLAIMING THAT THE KREUTH
SETBACK HAD BEEN OVERCOME, KOHL SAID HE BEARS NO ILL-
WILL TOWARD STRAUSS. HE ADDED THAT THE JOINT CDU/CSU
STRATEGY COMMISSION WILL MEET "SOMETIME IN MAY."

C. ECONOMY. KOHL REPEATED OLD CDU POSITIONS THAT
THE LIMITS HAVE BEEN REACHED FOR BURDENING THE GERMAN
TAXPAYER. HE SUPPORTED CDU GENERAL SECRETARY GEISSLER'S
FORMULATION OF THE "NEW SOCIAL QUESTION", ARGUING THAT
SOCIAL PROBLEMS HENCEFORTH MUST BE TREATED BY RESHUFFLING

GOVERNMENT OUTLAYS, NOT BY INCREASING THEM.

D. ENERGY POLICY. KOHL SAID THE FRG MUST HAVE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND COST-EFFECTIVE ENERGY. HE SUPPORTED NUCLEAR POWER FOR LACK OF A CLEAR ALTERNATIVE. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE ENERGY QUESTION CAN BE KEPT OUT OF INTER-PARTY CONFLICTS IN THE FRG.

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